

HB 562 -- Private Investigators

Sponsor: St. Onge

This bill creates within the Division of Professional Registration the Board of Private Investigator Examiners. No person will provide private investigative services without first being licensed.

The bill contains provisions which include the makeup and duties of the board; exemptions from licensure; requirements for application and licensure; providing proof of liability insurance; training and written examinations; fees; conducting background checks on applicants; denial, suspension, or revocation of licenses; types and terms of licenses; and reciprocity.

The bill allows licensees to disclose to the board any law enforcement agency, prosecutor, or the licensee's own representative any information regarding a criminal offense or to instruct their clients to do so if they are victims of a criminal act. Licensees are prohibited from making false reports, presenting themselves as a state or federal officer, or manufacturing false evidence. Certain identifying evidence must be filed with the board by licensees.

The bill further requires private investigators or investigator agencies to maintain complete records of business transactions. Records may be confidentially examined by the authority of the board under certain circumstances.

The bill contains penalty provisions.